Wall St. Journal

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Can you help me track down a reference to a quotation on your editorial page? Or pass this on to your colleague who may be the most likely to remember? Perhaps it is in your morgue under Toynbee.

It concerned the erosion of self-confidence in a culture under attack from without. At a certain stage, groups within will adopt a revolutionary stance (in effect joining the attackers) as a response to what they regard as inevitable victory. Toynbee (or I may be projecting my own speculation) was invoking this principle to account for the "Easternizations" of the youth culture in response to the population pressures of the Third World.

I would not trouble you if I had not already wasted some effort in trying to track this down.

Yours sincerely,

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